**Sinana Woreda 4th Strategic Innovation Platform Meeting Report**

Group photo (………………)

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The Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government’s Feed the Future (FtF) initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three projects are led by the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment.

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# Introduction

[Africa RISING in the Ethiopian highlands](http://africa-rising.net/where-we-work/ethiopian-highlands/) is a research for development project that focuses on **s**ystem interventions in the crop-and-livestock mixed farming system in four large regions (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNPR). The project understands the need for engaging various research and development partners in addressing system interventions. In order to do this, the project established and has been supporting innovation platforms at field sites**.** The platforms are meant to facilitate meaningful and effective cooperation and learning interactions that prioritize, guide, and evaluate the research and development processes that are specific to the sites. The platforms started helping connect farmers to profitable and efficient value chains for the main commodities. The members of the platforms are contributing to designing, implementing, evaluating project activities and disseminating and communicating research findings though regular meetings and farmer field days.

Innovation platforms and farmer research groupsInnovation platforms (IPs) have been formed at all the research sites and strongly link farming communities, the Africa RISING research teams and other public and private actors working in the areas. They work at three levels:

1. At woreda (district) level, strategic platforms support kebele (sub-district) platforms and farmer research groups. They bring together stakeholders to support wider adoption of innovations.
2. At kebele level, operational platforms oversee local research activities, foster integration among farmer research groups, and promote alignment of local on-farm research with district priorities.
3. Farmer research groups are like *innovation clusters*. They involve all farmers who are active around specific clusters of research activities – such as forage production, water delivery or varietal improvement. The role of these groups is to promote scaling of innovation to wider groups of farmers.

Regular IP meetings are held at strategic and operational level for sharing and communicating research findings. **This report aims to share one of the strategic IP meetings that were organized in one of the project site called Sinana woreda, Oromia region**.

This fourth strategic IP meeting was held on 29- June 2016 in Robe, the capital of the woreda. The focus of the meeting was to share the findings of the action research carried out by Africa RISING research teams in 2015/16 cropping season and the project output over the last 2-3 years with local partners, for potential scaling up.

**Sinana Woreda fourth Strategic IP meeting**

**Venue**: Sinana woreda Adim. Hall

**Date**: 29-June, 2016

**Participants from CGIAR centers**

* Yetsedaw Ayenaw (ICARDA)

**Participants from site**

* Seyfedin Mahadi- SARC Center director
* Jeylan ….Sinana woreda Adimnistration
* Suleman Duri –Sinana office of agriculture
* Siraj…. MWU representative

**Facilitator** – Amhed Aliyi (Madawalabu University)

**Minute takers**: Endeshaw Tadesse, Addisu Asfaw `

## Objectives of the meeting:

* The meeting was organized for sharing research findings undertaken in Sinana woreda, collecting feedback and comments, discussing on technology handover by partners and learning generally
* To share roles and responsibilities among platform members for scaling out/up of innovations from last year’s interventions by the Africa RISING teams.

## Welcome and introduction

Welcome and introduction to the day agenda was undertaken by Addisu Asfaw. In his speech he addressed the purpose of the meeting and pointed out that the meeting was mainly focusing on the communication of research activities that were undertaken by Africa RISING in Sinana woreda in 2015/16 cropping season and the project major achievements over the last five years. He also noted the importance of the IP and its function in addressing the issue of sustainable intensification and emphasized the good opportunity for different partners and stakeholders to point out challenge and gaps that were found in the real environment we are working in and to develop solutions all together for better performance. Finally, Addisu encouraged active participation of all IP members to share knowledge and experiences, which contributes to scaling out of innovation.

After well coming the participant, Ahmed Aliye (IP..facilitator) called up on three community elders for blessing as Oromo culture. The selected elders undergo blessing one after other to have bright day and successful meeting.

Ahmed Aliye facilitated the whole meeting. He introducing the agenda for the day and invited participating guests to introduce themselves through ‘speed networking.

**Opening remark**

The learning meeting was officially opened by Mr. Tesfaye Olika (Zone office of agriculture) representing the Zone Agriculture office as chairman of the platform. He introduces himself to the participant and tried to remind the strong linkage among office of agriculture and Africa RISING to bring successful achievements. He also put some points on scaling of technologies (best bit technology takeover) by partners to keep its sustainability. Finally, in his speech he welcomed members of the platform for open discussion and active participation and wished everyone a fruitful discussion.

## Overview of R4D activities, Major achievements and Future direction

Addisu was presented the overview of R4D activities, major achievements and future direction of the project. He was explained overview of the output and its achievements over the last 2-3 years in the communities. He clearly put the major output and best bit technologies out of the project at community level, what technologies has to be taken over and which potential partners has to be involved in the scaling of those best bet technologies.



*Addisu Presenting project overview…(photo..Endeshaw*)

He clearly tried to touch the following areas as major achievements of the project:

* Production diversification and improved production- attempting to brake mono cropping through providing options,
* Strong partnership created and functioning strategic and operational IPs established,
* Wider community awareness creation through field days and trainings and other knowledge transfer mechanisms,
* High demand created among farmers to adopt new technologies, eg. Potato,
* Capacity building of partners through short term trainings, workshops, field days and experience sharing visit,
* Creating seed source at each kebele for potato (Gudane), wheat (Hidase), faba bean (Moti, Dosha and Gebelcho) Field pea (Harena and Tulushenen).
* Construction of potato storage structure 8 big DLS (storage capacity of 40-60 qts) for community seed and about 10 small DLS (capacity of 15-20 qts) for PVS trials.
* Construction of potato storage structure 8 big DLS (storage capacity of 40-60 qts) for community seed and about 10 small DLS (capacity of 15-20 qts) for PVS trials.
* 500 apple seedling planted (more than 80% rate of survival),
* 4000-4500 tree lucene seedlings planted (more than 65% rate of survival),
* More than 600 HHs become direct beneficiaries from the project

These were some of the project achievements during its life span in sinana woreda

He also remained that the strong and explanatory work done by partnership Madda Walabu University and Bale zone of Agriculture on scaling of Potato seed distribution. In addition to this He also discussed project future direction, major opportunities and challenges and faced during the project lifespan.

Future Direction (phase II)

* The second phase focus on scaling and addressing more farmers
* Compiling all innovations and handover to local partners (Extension, MWU, SARC, Dev’tal NGOs and others)
* Continue doing back stopping research, experience sharing visit, capacity building,
* Workshop will be organized in October 2016 with partners to decide on who will do what.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Challenges** | **Opportunities** |
| Availability of Potential partners (local, national & international)  Bimodal Rainfall,  Availability of better land holding sizes,  Diversified agro-ecology for crop diversification,  Willingness of farmers to work with the project,  Accessibility to river water at Ilu-Snabitu for irrigation,  Better market access for potato produce, | Dependency of farmers on wheat/single crop due to mechanization (mono cropping),  Lack of interest among farmers to engage themselves in labor intensive farming activities,  Wider prevalence of pests (weeds, disease, etc) and declining productivity form time to time,  High seed demand and but shortage of quality seed supply,  Communication problems,  Frequent staff turnover,  Assuming ILRI/Africa RISING as development NGO and high expectancy,  Unreliable rainfall particularly in Ilu-Sanbitu kebel. |

**Update on Tree Lucerne and Apple research results.**

Endeshaw presented apple and tree lucerne research result conducted at home garden and on farm research. He presented that apple fruit and Tree Lucerne are both multipurpose tree used for Human and animal feed. He added that introducing high value crop intervention can contribute to improve food security, feed, nutrition and health, diversify and increase source of income as well as mitigate the problem of soil erosion. In addition to this ICRAF-Africa RISING work collaboratively on capacity building like:

* *Exposure visit*
* *Two Apple varieties give to farmers (1o seedling/household)*
* *Five Avocados –as adaptation trials*
* *Five Walnut Germplasm – Adaptation trials planted at university site*
* *Strengthening gov’t Nursery- building modernized shade net*
* *Onsite training for apple and Tree lucerne management and utilization*

He also discussed that the research result shows that, Variation in management practices had significant effect on apple sapling Diameter & height growth particularly at 12 month growth period (P< 0.05). In more management practice application maximum height & Diameter growth was recorded. The survival rate also ranges between 75-96% across site. Female managed apple saplings were observed better growth condition than male.

***Question and comments***

* *The presented report is real which is found on the ground however, it not only this is the project doing in the community (Participating farmers…)*
* *Sinana woreda has 18 kebles which have similar agro ecologies with intervention Keble so that it is better if scaling up will be done in those Keble’s (Experts…)*
* *Regarding Tree lucerne, Farmers are complaining as the tree is not liked by animal. So what do you think about or what will be going to improve? (Development agents…)*
* *Ans. The plant is new to the area and livestock’s are not familiar with it so far. As they become experienced with it hopefully there no such problems and it should be provided during feed shortage mixing with other familiar crop residues and salt.*
* *Human power….Africa RISING had been done great job in its 1st phase lifespan using little human power but if 2nd phase will be going to continue, the workload /activities will also expand so do you think that you will be effective with this limited manpower?*

**Update on ICARDA, CIMMTY and CIP research results**

Yetsedaw presented the overall activities of ICARAD/CIMMTY and CIP with its result. He presented all Major activities conducted under Africa RISING-ICRADA joint research and the best bit technologies come out of them. He clearly showed that the selected technology should have to be scaled out and call up on all potential partners to take handover of these technologies to reach large numbers of farmers. He presented major activities undertaken on six type crops (*i.e. Bread wheat, Durum wheat, Food Barley, Malt Barley, Faba Bean, and Potato)* with their results. Out of this he listed best performed and promising varieties that have to be scaled out.



*Yetsedaw presenting ICARDA/CIMMTY/CIP research result*.

He summarized the result and best bit technology for further scaling up/out as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Summary of the participatory Variety selection and identified best bit technologies in sinana woreda | | | | | |  | |  |
| *2014/15 cropping season Selka and IluSanbitu* | | |  | *2015/16 cropping season Selka and Ilu-Sanbitu* | | | | |
| S/N | Crop | Selected Cultivar | S/N | Crop | | Selected Cultivar | |
| 1 | Potato | Belete & Gudane | 1 | D/Wheat | | Utuba & Mangudo | |
| 2 | M/Barley | Bahati & Bokoji-1 | 2 | Lentil | | Dereash & Alem Tena | |
| 3 | F/Barley | HB-1307 & Abdane | 3 | Field Pea | | Burkitu | |
| 4 | F/Bean | Dosha & Gebelcho |  |  | |  | |
| 5 | B/Wheat | Hidase |  |  | |  | |

In addition to this Yetsedaw also presented activities related to CIMMTY mechanized planting systems and CIP community based improved seed production. The mechanized seeding using two wheel tractors is time saving while the yield result of with traditional planting shows non-significant difference. This machine is very important for irrigation. He also presented the comparative yield obtained across site from community seed production. At Selka, bread wheat- Hidase gave yield of 3.9 t/ha of basic seeds whereas food barley (HB1307) 2.1 and 3.4.t/ha certified seed yield was recorded. In addition to these 4.3 t/ha certified seed yield was recorded for Gebelcho variety and Potato tuber yield of 24.9 and 20.8 t/ha was harvested from Gudane variety on two farmers’ field. At Ilu Sanbitu farmer harvested 1.4 and 1.6 t/ha food barley (HB1307) and 7.7 and 12.6 t/ha potato tuber seed -Gudane varieties whereas Faba bean ( Gebelcho) and bread wheat (Hidase) seed multiplications were totally failed due to drought



*Fig...Community seed production and modern DLS for post- harvest handling of potato.*

**Update on Oat-vetch and crop residue research result.**

Addisu also presented the oat-vetch result obtained from the trials conducted in 2015 cropping season. He presented that oat-vetch has capacity to generate high energy for ploughing oxen and dry cows following the scientific result obtained from research conducted at different time. He presented that a 5.5kg of oat-vetch can enough for an oxen for full day ploughing.

(………….insert pictures and add points from slide….)

**Collaborative work of Africa RISING and Woreda office of Agriculture**

Finally, Suleiman Duri ( Woreda office of Agriculture head) presented the collaborative works done with Africa RISING and WOA. He presented that the major activities of Africa rising in sinana woreda and the achievement obtained has to be an input for the office of Agriculture in the future. He tried to touch all areas of R4D activities of the project.



*While he is presenting collaborative work done between Africa RISING and WOA (…photo Endeshaw.T)*

He was given more emphasis to community seed production and capacity development activities. He also presented the major challenge faced by project and office of Agriculture during the implementation of activities, lesson learned, and way forward.

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| Challenge | Lesson learned | Future direction |
| Dependency of farmers on wheat,  Lack of interest among farmers to engage themselves in labor intensive farming activities,  Less participation on training and field days  Emotional participation beyond their capacity in protocol hosting (some farmers)- on community consultation meeting  Human pest on pulse trials on small plot  Due to mechanization, difficult to  Failure in DLS construction on timeline | Strong partner’s collaboration brings good out put  Possible to make farmers owner of improved seed  Appropriate technology brings desired change within short time  All technology brought by Africa RISING requires technology disseminators which act as mediator. | Own those technologies and management practices,  Organizing experience sharing visit  Incorporating into annual plan  Supporting participating farmers  Creating market linkage |

**Discussion**

Hussein H/Adem farmer- The project brings the culture of working together and collaborative nature among different organization, farmer to farmer, and made farmer’s part of research, bring different experts from different organization at farmers home, Made us owners of improved seed, centering gender issue….

Experts….. The project output is highly encouraging and really it needs scaling up of best technology came out of them and identify potential partners who take the mandate to scale out to reach large number of farming communities.

(Seyfedin…SARC…Directror) Research center is source of any technology and farmers has to be work closely with research centers. Coming to Africa RISING, really I appreciate its effort that made in sinana and neibouring Keble’s. Its approach like IP and FRG systems which is encouraging and made farmers motivate to participate in different research activities and develop positive attitudes toward using new technologies. Research centers are trying its best to generate new verities time to time to keep verities sustainable since verities are susceptible to disease after 2-3 years of release. Regarding Market issue, we have no market problems, we are very far from raising market issue since our production potential are below the market need at this moment.

How you selected Hidase since the GY is low as compared to the rest?

Ans. based on farmers criteria. Not only considering yield but yield related component.

Yabo H/M…..farmer…Still we farmers have big problems to ward growing pulse and barley rather than wheat. We took training many times but failed to interpret to bring into action.

Tamene…..Pathologist. Crop rotation is mandatory especially for Bale farmers. Disease break out is currently influencing farmers growing wheat. So we have to grow pluses, and other crops to get rid of this problem.

Mako…farmer. Africa RISING brings gender equality, made us participate in different training, workshops, and encourage us to grow garden crops.

Kelil…..I have comments for Woreda office of agriculture b/c there is very weak support and follow up on farmer’s field. Africa RISING is doing its best but due to limited human resource they can’t reach all farmers but office of agriculture and AGP have enough power to do this but they are walking slowly. The other thing is we want to ask Africa RISING to bring garlic and onion in its second phase.

Abebe --DA’s... how we get utuba bread wheat?

Suleiman Duri….. We had to work more on market value chain especially this concerns Bale zone market department. It has to work on market value chain through linking farmers with processer or traders at farm get.

Tadle Tadesse….Pulse crop researcher….BOA has to think of how to scale out those selected best technologies to the left 18 Keble’s of sinana woredas which is big question.

**Closing Remark**

The closing remark was made by Jeylan Kassim Sinana Woreda administration after touching the project major achievements that was delivered the whole day. He was passed his message to all partners to participate actively in the scaling up of Africa RISING technologies in order to keep its sustainability

# Annexes

### Annex 1: Agenda for Sinana woreda 4th Strategic IP meeting at Bale Robe, Oromia

A**nnex 2: List of participants of 4th Strategic IP meeting at Sinana, Bale Robe**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | | Name | | Gender | | Organization | | Role/Responsibility | | Phone | E-mail | | |
| 1 | | Taju Abdulkadir | | M | | Silka Keble leader & IP memeber | | FRG representative, IP member | | 0949364277 | | |  |
| 2 | | Mako Abdulmajid | | F | | Selka keble | | FRG representative, IP member | |  | | |  |
| 3 | | Urgo Merga | | F | | Selka Keble | | FRG representative, IP member | | 0919613840 | | |  |
| 4 | | Yabo H/Muhammed | | M | | Selka | | Seed cooperative head | | 0927300722 | | |  |
| 5 | | Hussien H/Adem | | M | | selka | | farmer | | 0928000477 | | |  |
| 6 | | Abebe Gonfa | | M | | Ilu-Sanbitu Bureau of Agriculture DA | | DA | | 0910683886 | | |  |
| 7 | | Kelil H/Muhammed | | M | | Ilu-Sanbitu keble leader | | FRG representative, IP member | | 0921358099 | | |  |
| 8 | | Temam Mama | | M | | Ilu-Sanbitu Africa RISING represent.. | | Africa RISING data collector | | 0913223284 | | |  |
| 9 | | Chaltu Dessie | | F | | Ilu-Sanbitu | | FRG representative, IP member | |  | | |  |
| 10 | | Beleyinesh Tiki | | F | | Ilu-Sanbitu | | FRG representative, IP member | | 0932126880 | | |  |
| 11 | | Ahmed H/Hussen | | M | | Ilu-Sanbitu | | FRG representative, IP member | |  | | |  |
| 12 | | Suleymen Duri | | M | | Woreda office of Agriculture | | Head | | 0913540766 | | |  |
| 13 | | Tesfaye Olika | | M | | Zone admin | | HRM | |  | | |  |
| 14 | | Tesfaye Geleta | | M | | WOA | |  | |  | | |  |
| 15 | | Dechasa Nugussie | | M | | Woreda irrigation office | | Head | | 0930257220 | | |
| 16 | | Chimdesa Bolechu | | M | | WOA | | AGP focal person | | 0913901722 | | |  |
| 17 | | Gezu Lema | | M | | WOA | | Extension representative | | 0933825156 | | |  |
| 18 | | Gosa Alemu | | M | | Woreda Livestock Agency | |  | |  | | |  |
| 19 | | Seyfedin Mahadi | | M | | SARC | | Center director &IP TC | |  | | |  |
| 20 | | Temane Mideksa | | M | | SARC | | Researcher & IP member | |  | | |  |
| 21 | | Tadele Tadesse | | M | | SARC | | Researcher & IP member | | 0911967286 | | | Tadeyeko20@gmail.com |
| 22 | | Ahmed Aliye | | M | | MWU | | Lecturer & IP TC | | 0911075338 | | | ahmedsare@yahoo.com |
| 23 | | Siraj Beshir | | M | | MWU | | Lecturer & IP TC | |  | | |  |
| 24 | | Jeylan Kassim | | M | | Woreda Adim. | | Head | |  | | |  |
| 25 | | Ketema Mamo | | M | | SARC | |  | |  | | |  |
| 26 | | Yetsedaw Ayenew | | M | | ICARDA | | researcher | |  | | | ayeuyesse@gmail.com |